

**Amendments To The Claims:**

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Claim 1 (Original): An image reading device, comprising:

a feeding part that feeds a copy,

a plurality of reading parts that read the copy fed by said feeding part, and

a noise detecting part that, when comparing image data outputted by said plurality of reading parts and detecting that a specific number of pixels of the image data are not coincident as to a plurality of pixels arrayed in the sub-scanning direction, determines that the image data outputted by a specific reading part among said plurality of reading parts contains streaky noises.

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Claim 2 (Original): The image reading device according to Claim 1, wherein, when the image data outputted by the specific reading part is larger than the image data outputted by another reading part, said noise detecting part determines that the image data outputted by said specific reading part contains black streaky noises.

Claim 3 (Original): The image reading device according to Claim 1, wherein, when the image data outputted by said specific reading part is smaller than the image data outputted by another reading part, said noise detecting part determines that the image data outputted by said specific reading part contains white streaky noises.

Claim 4 (Original): The image reading device according to claim 1, further comprising a noise eliminating part that, when said noise detecting part determines the image data to contain noises, removes the noises from the image data outputted by said specific reading part.

Claim 5 (Original): The image reading device according to Claim 4, wherein said noise eliminating part removes the noises by replacing the image data outputted by said specific reading part with the image data outputted by another reading part.

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Claim 6 (Original): The image reading device according to Claim 4, further comprising a part that acquires the image data of a skin of said copy, wherein said noise eliminating part removes the noises by replacing the image data outputted by said specific reading part with the image data of the skin of said copy.

Claim 7 (Original): The image reading device according to Claim 4, wherein said noise eliminating part removes the noises from the image data outputted by said specific reading part retroactively to a specific period from a moment when the image data is determined to contain said noises.

Claim 8 (Original): The image reading device according to Claim 1, further comprising a reading position moving part that moves a reading position of a copy by said reading part, when said noise detecting part determines that the image data outputted by a specific reading part among said plurality of the remaining parts contains the streaky noises.

Claim 9 (Original): The image reading device according to Claim 8, wherein said reading position moving part moves the reading position of the copy by said reading part, during a period from the end of a copy reading operation in which the image data is determined to contain the streaky noises until the start of a next copy reading operation.

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Claim 10 (Original): The image reading device according to Claim 8, wherein said noise detecting part has a storage part that memorizes the positions of pixels including said noises, and outputs a control signal that prohibits the reading operation of the copy, after said reading position moving part moves the reading position, when the image data outputted by said specific reading part is again determined to contain the streaky noises as to the same pixels as the pixels stored by said storage part.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): An image reading device, comprising:

- a feeding part that feeds a copy,
- three or more reading parts that read the copy fed by said feeding part, and
- an image selecting part that compares image data obtained from each of said reading parts, selects the image data obtained from a specific reading part as output image data when the image data is coincident with each other, conducts the majority operation obtained from said reading parts as to a plurality of pixels arrayed in the sub-scanning direction, when inconsistencies of the image data are generated in succession between two or more reading parts, and selects one item of the image data belonging to the majority side as the output image data.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The image reading device according to Claim 1,  
comprising:

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a feeding part that feeds a copy, wherein the plurality of reading parts include  
three or more reading parts that read the copy fed by said the feeding part, and the  
image reading device further comprising an output image data generation part that  
~~compares image data items obtained from each of said reading parts~~, selects the image  
data item obtained from a specific reading part as output image data item when the  
noise detecting part detects that the image data items are coincident with each other,  
selects ~~two image data items with the least difference between them among the image~~  
data obtained from said two image reading parts with the least difference between  
them, when the noise detecting part detects that the image data are not coincident as to a  
plurality of pixels arrayed in the sub-scanning direction, ~~when inconsistencies of the~~  
~~image data items are generated~~ in succession between two or more reading parts, and  
generates the output image data from these image data items.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): An image reading device, comprising:

a feeding part that feeds a copy,  
a plurality of reading parts that read the copy fed by said feeding part, and  
a selection part that selects, by a user's instruction, a reading part for generating  
output images among said plurality of reading parts.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): An image reading device, comprising:

a feeding part that feeds a copy,

a plurality of reading parts that read the copy fed by said feeding part,

a noise detecting part that compares image data items outputted by said plurality of reading parts, and on the basis of the comparison result, determines whether or not the image data outputted by the reading part for generating output images selected among said plurality of reading parts contains noises,

a noise eliminating part that conducts, on the basis of the determination result by said noise detecting part, noise eliminating processing to the image data outputted by the reading part for generating output images, and

a switch part that switches said reading part for generating output images into another reading part than the current one, when said noise detecting part determines during reading of said copy that the image data contains noises.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The image reading device according to Claim 1,  
further comprising:

~~a feeding part that feeds a copy,~~

~~a plurality of reading parts that respectively read the copy fed by said feeding~~  
~~part,~~

~~a noise detecting part that compares image data items outputted by said plurality~~  
~~of reading parts, and determines whether or not the image data read by said plurality of~~  
~~reading parts contain noises depending on whether or not inconsistencies of the image~~

~~data are detected in succession as to a plurality of pixels arrayed in the sub-scanning direction;~~

a noise eliminating part that conducts, on the basis of the determination result by said noise detecting part, noise eliminating processing to the image data read by a reading part selected as the reading part for generating output images among said plurality of reading parts,

a noise quantity measuring part that measures, on the basis of the determination result by said noise detecting part, the quantity of noises noise for one main scanning line as to each of said plurality of reading parts, and

a switch part that switches the reading part for generating output images into a reading part having the smallest quantity of noises measured by said noise quantity measuring part.

Claim 16 (Original): An image reading method, comprising the steps of:

reading, by a plurality of reading parts, a copy fed by a feeding part  
comparing image data items outputted by said plurality of reading parts, and

determining the image data outputted by a specific reading part of said plurality of reading parts contains streaky noises, when the image data items are not coincident in succession as to a plurality of pixels arrayed in the sub-scanning direction.

Claim 17 (Original): The image reading device according to Claim 4, wherein the noise eliminating part applies the same process as that of said specific eliminating part in the sub-scanning direction with a plurality of lines in succession even after the noises are determined to be contained.

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Claim 18 (Original): The image reading device according to Claim 4, wherein the noise eliminating part applies the same process as that of said specific eliminating part to a plurality of adjoining pixels in the main scanning direction of the pixels that are determined to contain the noises.

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Claim 19 (Original): The image reading device according to Claim 1, further comprising a setting part that sets said specific number of pixels to a larger value, as the feeding speed of the copy fed by said feeding part becomes faster.

Claim 20 (Original): The image reading device according to Claim 1, further comprising a setting part that sets said specific number of pixels on the basis of the number of pixels of the noises produced when the feeding speed of the copy fed by said feeding part is fast.

Claim 21 (Original): The image reading device according to Claim 1, further comprising a setting part that sets said specific number of pixels on the basis of the amount of the phase shift of the outputted image data in said plurality of reading parts, which is created when the feeding speed of the copy fed by said feeding part is fast.